



layman

# action

for children, inc.

MARCH +++++ 1979

P O. Box 25040

Los Angeles, Ca. 90025

Dear friends,

The year of 1978 has passed into history. We are far into a new year - the year of 1979 - also called the Children's Year 1979.

1978 was one of the most successful years in Layman ACTION's history. The new dormitory wing for the girls' home at Mama Paulita was started and completed that year, a lot was purchased to build a new orphanage building for the home Maria Luisa, a sponsorship program was instigated, many new boys and girls were admitted to the homes, and the support to maintain the homes was steady and increasing.

We thank all of you, dear friends, who have been so generous with gifts and faithful support so that we were able to accomplish these duties we felt were ours. God will surely bless you and reward each and everyone of you.

I went to Mexico in December 1978 for the dedication of the new dormitory wing. Ted Boe, our treasurer, accompanied me on the trip. Below is his report from the trip with his impressions of the home.

We do hope all of you will continue your support of this work in the new year.  
THANK YOU!

Sincere greetings,  
Trygve D. Jansen

Dear friends and supporters,

This is to report concerning the trip I made with Trygve Jansen to Mexico, Principally to visit the home MAMA PAULITA in Mante, Mexico.

Our first stop was in Mexico City where we met Paul Godshall who has been a Menonite missionary in Mexico for many years. He is very concerned about the children's home MARIA LUISA in the city of Serdan. This city is about 150 miles from Mexico City. Land has been purchased and plans are being made to build a residence for the children there. At the present they are renting an inadequate building where the children reside. There are 17 children in the home and many more need to come in. A local dentist and a physician are giving help when needed.

We went from Mexico City to Mante and spent 2½ days visiting the home MAMA PAULITA. This is a very fine home, with a boys' dormitory and a girls' dormitory. There are now 52 children in this home. Mrs. Celia Hernandez is the executive secretary for the Mexican Board. She is the sister of Matilde Ruiz, founder of the home.

This visit was most inspiring. The children are happy and very well-behaved. They are being raised in Christian love and teaching.





Meals are served at tables of six to ten children. Before the meals the children sing a song and then one of them lead in prayer. As soon as the meal is finished one person at each table brings the dishes into the kitchen and then wipes off the table. Groups of children take turn washing the dishes and cleaning the kitchen.

The children help keep all the rooms swept and dusted. There is much work to be done outside also. Some of the boys work many hours watering the trees and plants, putting away waste and keeping the grounds neat.

It was an experience of great value to me to visit this home, and it inspired me to let others know about this work. It was wonderful to see and meet these happy, friendly and loving children. They truly are being taught the Christian faith, and that is what makes it such a good home. These children come from broken homes, and some have been deserted by either father or mother or both; or other circumstances have caused them to be admitted to the home. Some of them could have died from starvation or illness due to neglect. There are many needy people like this in Mexico. That is why this program is so very worthy of support.



The photo on first page and the one above show Ted Boe distributing gifts to the children at the Home

Greetings,  
Ted Boe

#### DEDICATION OF THE NEW DORMITORY WING.

Thursday, December 28, 1978 was the new dormitory wing dedicated at MAMA PAULITA. Many people were gathered at the ceremony besides the children and staff at the home.

In the photo at the right is shown part of the wing and some of the girls who will benefit from this new addition.

A NEW GOAL REACHED. LET'S REJOYCE!



#### MONETARY GIFT FROM YOU

In the photo to the left is shown the presentation of a check by Trygve Jansen (on behalf of all the contributors) to Mrs. Ruiz.

The money is to be used for furniture for the new wing, remodeling of the kitchen, and a beginning fund for the new school building.

The check was in the amount of \$8,000.-

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## A NEW VOLUNTEER PROGRAM



ASTRID WEKTERUD

Periodically we have had some young women go to Mexico to serve as volunteers at the home MAMA PAULITA. They were about four to six months. They were of great help and both the children and the staff were grateful for the help they gave, and they still think of them and remember them with fondness.

A volunteer from Norway, ASTRID WEKTERUD, a teacher, has contacted us and she offers her services for a whole year. She has applied for leave of absence from her teaching position for one year, and will be starting this Fall. She introduces herself in her letter below:

Dear friends and readers,

It is with a peculiar and strange feeling I'm sitting here in the cold winter Norway contemplating that in a few months I will be living in an entirely different country and in a semi-tropical climate in Mexico.

Telling something about my background it immediately comes to my mind what happened a few months ago and in recent months and how God has prepared my way to go to Mexico to serve. Every step has worked out so beautifully, and I feel at ease and confident that this is a link in God's plan for me.

Before I knew anything about the work in Mexico I felt God's call, - but to what? I was uncertain. Then last Fall he gave me this concrete task. The secretary of "Mexico-AKSJONEN" in Norway (branch of Layman ACTION) Anny Sveen, a dear friend of mine, made me aware of this work, and gave me the challenge to go to Mexico to help the needy children at the orphanage MAMA PAULITA. It was as if the various parts of a puzzle fell into place. Both Anny and I felt confident that God had spoken, and as time progresses it has become more and more clear.

A few data about myself. I was born and grew up in the community of Gran, Hadeland in Norway. After middel school I attended a folk high school in Gjøvik, then on to teachers' college for four years. I began my career as a teacher in the most northern county of Norway, Finnmark in 1969, and since that time taught several places in Norway before I finally settled in Mjøndalen (near Oslo) four years ago. I also attended a one year graduate course in Kristiansand.

The faith in Jesus Christ I received in my childhood home and have treasured it ever since. I have participated in Sunday school work, youth groups and Bible groups. This has meant a great deal to me personally.

When I consider the service I will be doing from the Fall 1979 I look forward to it with anticipation. I have the confidence that God will give me the strength and wisdom necessary for the task ahead. I have always loved the verse in Psalm 37,5 "Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act." I want to give all of you who read this the promise from that verse as my special greeting to you. I like to thank all of you who want to include me in your prayers.

Sincere greetings,  
Astrid Wekterud

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### GIVING ONE YEAR OF HER LIFE IN SPECIAL SERVICE.

Astrid Wekterud will be giving one year of her life in service for the children of Mexico. She will receive room and board and some spending money while she is there, - no salary. She will need help with travel expenses - round-trip Norway/Mexico. Approximately \$1,500.-

You and I cannot go full-time to Mexico. She really takes our place. Would you be willing to help out with her travel expenses? When you send in your gift indicate that it is for Astrid's travel. (TDJ)



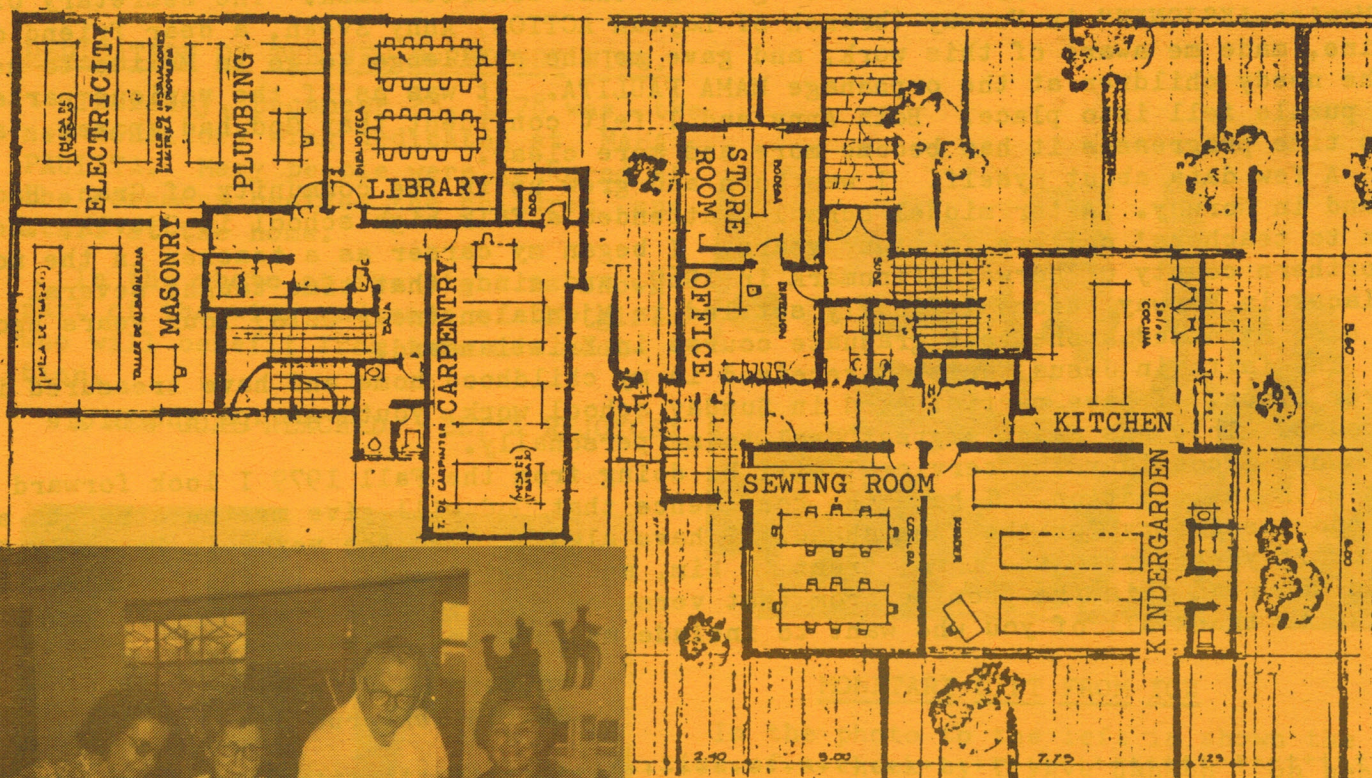
FIRST PRIORITY -

THIS IS A MUST FOR 1979 !

ERECTING THE NEW ORPHANAGE  
BUILDING IN THE CITY OF SERDAN,  
STATE OF PUEBLA, MEXICO.



As we have mentioned before land has been purchased, and it is paid for. The plans are ready, and we have about one fourth of the amount needed to build. The total cost will be about \$60,000 to \$70,000.- Remember this cause in your prayers.



SECOND PRIORITY - SCHOOL BUILDING AT  
MAMA PAULITA.

Above is a temporary plan of the school building at Mama Paulita. Photo at left: Busy looking at the plans with the architect.

Approximately cost: \$65,000.-

We need your moral and financial support.